



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **City of Akron's Global Accelerator and the Technology Park Ljubljana Ink Deal**

September 24, 2012 (Akron, Ohio) - Last week proved fruitful for Akron as Mayor Don Plusquellic, Deputy Mayor Bob Bowman, Councilman Garry Moneypenny, and Akron's Global Accelerator Deputy Managing Director Anthony Margida travelled to Ljubljana, Slovenia to attend the Foreign Direct Investment Summit Slovenia and the Innovative Cities Conference. The result of the week-long visit was a signed Memorandum of Cooperation between Technology Park Ljubljana and the Akron Global Business Accelerator.

This past June, the Center of Excellence for Polymer Materials and Technologies, PoliMat, from Ljubljana visited the City of Akron and invited Akron officials to the Slovenia Summit and Convention. Several hundred people from around the globe travelled to Ljubljana to attend the Summit and Conference, where Mayor Plusquellic

was a featured speaker at the American Chamber of Commerce Foreign Direct Investment Breakfast Summit and a panel member of the Innovative Cities Conference. PoliMat organized many of the business meetings with elected/institutional officials and community leaders that took place throughout the week.

During this trip, the Akron team met with over 13 early stage companies and several start-up companies that were looking to commercialize their technologies in the marketplace. They also visited and toured Goodyear's facility in Kranj, Slovenia.

"The Slovenian companies were in various stages of growth which included spin-outs all the way through mature companies, some of which had millions of dollars of sales worldwide," said Deputy Mayor Bob Bowman.

"This Agreement will help Slovenia companies commercialize their products, which leads to sales, marketing, distribution, manufacturing and ultimately jobs for our citizens," noted Mayor Plusquellic. "As a result of this trip, PoliMat will be opening up offices in the Accelerator. This office will enable Slovenia companies to test the U.S. marketplace."

Garry Moneypenny, who took part in many of the company presentations, was overwhelmed by the experience, "I was astonished by the quality of companies, their technology, and their eagerness to locate operations in Akron. I believe it was our proactive approach that sealed the deal with PoliMat, as there was competition from another East Coast city. The leadership provided by the City's economic development team and the City's Akron Global Accelerator was integral to completing this deal."

PoliMat is also looking to partner with the University of Akron's Polymer Science and Engineering Program in order to develop joint research programs.

End.